ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BODMIN

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

BODMIN:
PRINTED BY W. H. PHILLIPS, FORE STREET.

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TO THE BODMIN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the Year 1939.

The Report will be a materially curtailed one as the Minister of Health considers that during the period of the war many items which usually appear may be omitted, and others dealt with as briefly as possible.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)—3,311

Registrar General's estimate of—

(a) resident population, Mid., 1939 ... 5,480

(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates 5,545

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the Rate Books—1,277.

Rateable value—£26,871.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£105.

Social Conditions.

The town is largely residential and is the market

and shopping centre for the surrounding agricultural district.

The Depot of the County Regiment is situated in the Borough and in the latter part of the year the population was greatly augmented by the billeting of troops owing to the War and the influx of their wives and families.

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live births	35	35	70
Legitimate	34	35	69
Illegitimate	1	0	1

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—12·77.

	M.	F.	Total.
Still births	1	1	2
Legitimate	1	1	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 27·7

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths	26	41	67

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population—10·2

There were no deaths from Puerpural-sepsis or other puerpural causes.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—

	M.	F.	Total.
Total deaths	3	3	6
Legitimate	3	3	6

Death rate per 1,000 live births—85.7

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	6
,, Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	Nil

The chief causes of death were—

	M.	F.	Total.
Heart disease	8	14	22
Other circulatory diseases	2	4	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	2	3	5
Influenza	1	4	5
Cancer	1	5	6

Comparison of Birth and Death rates with those for England and Wales--

		England and Wales.
Birth rate	12·77	15
Death rate	10·2	12·1
Infantile death rate	85·7	50

Influenza with pulmonary complications was prevalent during January. It was responsible for a number of deaths, chiefly amongst elderly people.

During February and March Mumps was very prevalent amongst school children. It then died down but there was a further epidemic in July.

Whooping cough was prevalent amongst children during June.

No schools were closed on account of epidemic diseases.

General Provision of Health Services.

Medical Officer of Health.

J. H. Hobling (part time Officer) is also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Wadebridge, Public Vaccinator and Certifying Factory Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector and Borough Surveyor.

R. T. Buscombe (a full time Officer). He is an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Laboratory Facilities.

Owing to the large number of troops in the district, facilities are given for working in conjunction with the military authorities for the examination of pathological specimens and the investigation of food and water supplies.

Ambulance Facilities.

The St. John's Motor Ambulance continues its ordinary valuable work and in addition is available for A.R.P. services, supplemented by civilian vehicles adapted so as to be able to carry stretchers in case of emergency.

Nursing in the Home.

This need is met by the staff of nurses trained and supplied by the County Nursing Association.

There is a Voluntary Maternity Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre which does an excellent work amongst young mothers and their Infants.

Hospitals.

The East Cornwall and Bodmin Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital for the treatment of Medical and Surgical cases.

In addition a part of the Cornwall Mental Hospital has been taken over and converted into an Emergency Hospital for the treatment of both Civilian and Military patients who may be injured by war operations.

There is no Isolation Hospital for the treatment of civilian infectious cases. Under present war conditions the necessity for one is especially important.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. This is satisfactory as to quality, but not as regards quantity. Owing to the great increase of population, both civil and military, the supply is quite inadequate and has to be continually cut off to maintain any supply at all.

The Water Company have certain works and preparations in hand for installing mechanical means for increasing the volume of the supply. There is delay and difficulty in obtaining the necessary plant.

Unless some increase in the amount of water supplied to the town can be secured, the danger of an outbreak of disease or of fire must be a matter of serious concern to the Council.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extensions of sewers have been necessary owing to the erection of a Military Hutment Camp. This necessitated the construction of new Sewage Disposal Works which are nearing completion. These works were sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

Rivers and Streams.

There has been no undue pollution and no complaints have been received.

Closet Accommodation.

Water closets are in use in the built up area and

pail closets in the rural part of the district.

The efficiency of the water closet system is much impaired by the frequent shutting off of the water supply.

Public Cleansing.

Streets and Public Lavatories are regularly cleansed and kept in good order.

House refuse is regularly collected by motor vehicles and disposed of by controlled tipping at a refuse dump well away from the residential area.

SHOPS.

Dairies, bake houses, butchers' shops, &c., have been regularly visited and inspected and the conditions generally are satisfactory

The taking of milk samples for Bacterial or Tubercle Tests is undertaken by the County Council.

SCHOOLS.

The health of the children has been satisfactory and there has been no closure on account of sickness, but the sanitary conditions are seriously affected at times by the cutting off of the water supply during part of the school hours.

Housing.

Owing to war conditions action under the Housing Acts is much restricted.

Plans for new dwellings to rehouse persons from condemned dwellings are at present in abeyance.

Meat Inspection.

The slaughtering of animals for human consumption is now controlled by the Government.

The slaughtered animals are regularly inspected and any portions of carcases or offals unfit for human consumption are withdrawn and disposed of under Government control.

Adulteration.

This is dealt with by the County Council.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Influenza was prevalent during January and February, dying down rapidly in March.

Mumps was very prevalent during February and March with a further outbreak in July.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in June.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0
Diphtheria	1	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bacillary Dysentery	7	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	0	0
Measles	2	0	0

The cases of Dysentery and Enteric Fever were all in the Cornwall Mental Hospital which is situated in the Borough.

Analysis of age groups of cases notified.

	Scarlet Fever	Diph-theria	Enteric Fever	Pneu-monia	Dysen-tery	Whooping Cough	Measles
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
20	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
35	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
45	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	6	0	0

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.)

New cases and mortality during 1939—

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age period	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. HOBLING,

Medical Officer of Health.